U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
PALLID MANZANITA
Arctostaphylos pallida

CLASSIFICATION: Threatened
Federal Register Notice 63:19842; April 22, 1998
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3252.pdf
(74 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in November 1997. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

Pallid Manzanita
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RECOVERY PLAN: Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay, California
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030407.pdf (3 MB)

5-YEAR REVIEW: Initiated March 25, 2009

Pallid Manzanita
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DESCRIPTION:
Pallid manzanita, also known as Oakland Hills or Alameda manzanita, is an upright shrub in the heath family (Ericaceae). It grows up to 4 meters (13 feet) high. Its bark is rough, gray or reddish and the twigs are bristly.

Ovate to triangular leaves are bristly, clasping and strongly overlapping. They are 2.5 to 4.5 centimeters (1.0-1.8 inches) long and 2 to 3 centimeters (0.8 to 1.2 inches) wide. The dense, white, rose or white-rose tinged flowers are urn-shaped and 0.2 to 0.3 inch long.

Pallid manzanita flowers between December and March. Like many plants, pallid manzanita needs occasional fires to thrive. The seeds need to be scarred in order to grow. Fire helps reproduction in other ways. It removes leaf and bark litter, fallen fruits and roots. Fire also keeps the species from getting too much shade. Shade allows fungus to grow, which causes bark to strip off.

Pallid manzanita commonly co-occurs with another manzanita species, brittle leaf manzanita (*A. tomentosa* ssp. *crustacea*), but the latter is a burl-forming species with spreading leaves. Pallid manzanita does not form burls. See Jepson Manual, below, for a more detailed description.

DISTRIBUTION:

The species is found from 656 to 1,460 feet in elevation, primarily on thin soils composed of chert and shale. The plants are found in manzanita chaparral habitat that is frequently surrounded by oak woodlands and coastal shrub.

Pallid manzanita is known from approximately 13 populations in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The two largest populations, which are owned by the East Bay Regional Park District, are located at Huckleberry Ridge in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and at Sobrante Ridge in Contra Costa County. Several other small, natural and planted populations occur in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The two largest groups occupy an area of approximately 82 acres. These two populations are found in maritime chaparral, a habitat with mesic soil conditions and a maritime influence. Many smaller populations occur in coastal scrub.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Briones Valley (465B) 3712282, Oakland East (465C) 3712272, Richmond (466A) 3712283

THREATS:

The primary threats to the species are the effects of fire suppression, and shading and competition from native and alien plants. To a lesser extent, fungal infection, herbicide spraying, hybridization, and the ongoing effects of habitat loss and fragmentation threaten the species.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is a special version of this account for students in 4-6 grades.
www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/pallid_manzanita_kf.htm.

General references about California plants
www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an online version. See also the Jepson Online Interchange for updates.

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